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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

NOBTS women's program sets expansion

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The women's ministry specialization program offered at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) has been expanded to include advanced certification, and plans are under way for the year-old undergraduate certificate program to launch into graduate degree work within another year.

As women's Bible study and other types of local church women's ministry groups, together with already established Woman's Missionary Union groups, have been burgeoning throughout the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), New Orleans Seminary was the first SBC school to begin offering formal, specialized training to equip women for ministry in this area, whether as church staff members or as volunteers.

NOBTS' women's ministry certificate program "was specifically designed to train women for preparation for ministry to women through the local church," said Rhonda Kelley, wife of NOBTS president Chuck Kelley.

The first class, "Women's Work in the Local Church," was offered in March 1997. This past May 15, NOBTS presented certificates during the spring commencement service to 12 women in the first group to complete program requirements.

Currently nearly 50 women from across the United States are enrolled in the women's ministry certificate program.

"The 12 ladies who received the Certificate in Women's Ministry during the May 15 graduation service symbolize

the fulfillment of a dream," Kelley said. "We had a dream to provide seminary training for women ministering to women through their local churches. In only 14 months these ladies have completed their specialized work in women's ministry, giving credibility to their call and validity to their position."

Unique features of the NOBTS women's ministry program include both its format and structure. The certificate program format allows women without a college degree to take these seminary courses and makes it possible for women who either already have a seminary degree or who are working on one to specialize in this field of ministry.

Another unique feature is the structure of the program, designed to allow women to commute for short periods of time, rather than moving to the seminary campus. Classes are offered approximately every three months during convenient three- and five-day academic workshops, as opposed to semester- or term-length classes. In addition, classes may be taken for academic credit or as continuing education courses.

Until this time, the only training available to Southern Baptist women who either were working in or who wanted to



FOR WOMEN ONLY — Rhonda Kelley (at front of classroom), wife of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) president Chuck Kelley, addresses a class of students attending the women's ministry specialization program at New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans. The year-old program is specially designed to prepare women for ministry to women through the local church. (Photo courtesy NOBTS)

start a women's ministry program in their churches was through occasional conferences or clinics offered within the past few years by LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC, by reading what they could find or by talking to other women doing the same type of ministry.

Kelley has been involved on the national denominational level with women's ministry efforts since 1992 when she was asked to be a part of the SBC's Women's Ministry Study Group as a need was sensed for some coordination to be developed.

"Women's ministry is the passion of my heart," said Kelley, who has a doctor of philosophy degree in special education and speech pathology from the University of New Orleans. Before devoting her full attention

to developing and encouraging women's ministry programs in local churches across the United States, Kelley was director of the division of communicative disorders for Ochsner Medical Institutions in New Orleans.

"I feel like a proud mother whose daughters have accomplished a major goal in their lives," she said. "New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to providing excellent seminary training for women's ministry leaders who serve in their local churches."

For more information on the women's ministry certificate program, including a brochure, contact New Orleans Seminary's college of unde- graduate studies at (800) NOBTS-01, ext. 3590, or by e-mail at pr@nobts.edu.

Last call for nominations

The Committee on Nominations solicits recommendations for individuals to serve on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, according to David Raddin, committee chairman and pastor of First Church, Yazoo City. A limited number of vacancies will be filled on the Board of Ministerial Education, the Christian Action Commission, the Education Commission, the Historical Commission, the Baptist Children's Village, Baptist Health Care Systems, Inc., Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, William Carey College, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The Nominating Committee will work in conjunction with the heads of the institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers at the October 27-28, 1998, annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Nomination forms may be obtained from MBCB executive director's office, at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

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Looking back

10 years ago

Pearl Hill Church, Carthage pastor Eddie Pilgram and Sunday School director Jimmy Ingram sing from the roof of the church after the congregation passes its announced goal of 150 people in Sunday School for five consecutive Sundays.

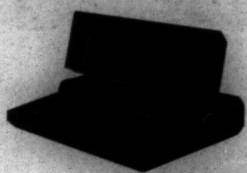
20 years ago

Don McGregor, editor of The Baptist Record, announces that for a fee of \$30 a week churches can use the back page of the paper as their weekly newsletter. "We like it because it should increase readership. The churches should like it if it will save them time and money," he says.

50 years ago

On Sunday, May 30th, First Church, Louisville, ordains to the Gospel ministry James Fancher — the third young man to be ordained by the church in recent months. W. I. Allen gives the charge and pastor W. L. Day preaches the sermon.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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VBS isn't just for kids

Vacation Bible School (VBS) works. That's the plain, indisputable truth we relearn every summer in churches all across the Mississippi Baptist Convention. If you think of VBS as a simple week of entertainment for the kids in your church, however, you're missing out on the real blessing of this powerful evangelism tool.

To dismiss VBS as child's play is to overlook the impact it can have on another segment of the church congregation: the adult VBS volunteers. As is often the case when we are about the Father's business, the Kingdom is increased in ways we cannot envision when we first answer his call. VBS is a perfect example. To wit:

Baptists in Franklin and Jefferson Counties in southwest Mississippi are crossing long-standing racial, socioeconomic, and denominational boundaries to reach people for Jesus, and VBS is the rallying point (see article on page four of this issue).

Predominantly White churches and predominantly African-American churches — and even more importantly, White and African-American individuals — are banding together, throwing off the entanglements of the past (Heb. 12:1), and saving lost souls.

That's not to imply that problems and inequities don't still exist in that area or any other area of Mississippi; it's just that this determined group of Christians has chosen not to allow anything to stand in the way of their God-called ministry.

In an era when almost everything in the culture is centered on race, money, or social standing, Christians must reflect a different message. These Mississippi Baptists serve

as an inspiration to those of us who aren't trying quite hard enough in this crucial area of personal witness.

This is just one of literally hundreds of stories where VBS is making a difference in Mississippi, in surprising and somewhat unorthodox ways. It's no revelation that Mississippi Baptists are the best at putting feet to our faith, and VBS is an excellent way to do just that.

VBS obviously isn't just for kids. It can be a life-changing experience for adults as well. After all, who but God could have envisioned the movement born in two Mississippi counties?

Summer is a busy time — Little League, swimming lessons, vacations, and a long list of other activities that consume our time and attention.

VBS, however, should be at the top of that list. Make allowances in your schedule, and put VBS in its rightful place.

At least a few Mississippi Baptist churches have already been forced to cancel VBS plans for this summer because not enough adults volunteered. What a poverty that is for the church and the community.

When a VBS child can answer a question on salvation by stating, "Admit you are a sinner, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and commit your life to him," what matters race,



class, denomination, or summer agenda?

The words to the song everyone knows are sweet, simple and powerful. Each one should ring in our ears at this time of year:

Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.

GUEST OPINION:



Serving at the washtubs

By Dell Scoper, member
First Church, Laurel

As the years have passed and I have found myself in a variety of settings featuring women from all walks of life, I have discovered that most Christian women struggle with essentially the same question: How can one lay hold to experiencing a special quality of life that makes every day significant, to be truly "present to the moment" in every act of ministry and mercy?

This concept is elusive, and frustrating, for most Christian women. We have done this to ourselves in that we unconsciously promote a mentality that "ministries" are scheduled events and activities within the structured church program.

That isn't necessarily so, and a perfect example comes to mind from the life of nurse Florence Nightingale.

During the Crimean War, many young women eagerly joined Nightingale under the inspiration of a great patriotic cause. As their ship sailed into Scutary harbor in Turkey, a young nurse enthusiastically rushed up to Nightingale and said, "Oh, Miss Nightingale, let's not lose any time. I want to start nursing the wounded right away!"

The great nurse turned to her young study and replied, "The strongest will be needed at the washtubs."

As Christian women, are we not needed at the "washtubs"

of the world, ministering to spiritually-starved individuals who never find their way into our churches?

These people surround us at civic meetings, social functions, and shopping malls — all places where ministry opportunities abound.

Those opportunities will occur, if we listen to the voice of Jesus. In Mark 3:14, he called the Twelve "that they might be with him and that he might send them forth."

Obviously, it is not until we have been with him that the call to ministry becomes real.

There are no bargain counters in ministry; no one ever gets maximum results from minimum response to the Savior's call.

Whenever Christian women feel the unbearable pressures of family and the weariness of duties stretching beyond our human limitations, we must listen for the voice of Jesus over screaming schedules and

demanding deadlines — the voice that calls us simply to "be with him."

We have chosen a lifestyle of positions and duties that makes it difficult to balance the inner self with the outer self.

Such distraction seems to be a peculiarly women's problem, the solution to which is neither renunciation of the world or total immersion in it.

The balance we seek is possible only by filling our cup each day with the presence of Jesus, and realizing we can't water the whole field while neglecting our own garden.

The call to ministry is clear. The strongest are needed at the washtubs. Jesus will give us the strength to stand at the washtubs, once we have truly been with him.

For many years, the old farmer carried every pail of water from a distant well to meet the needs of his homestead.

One day he decided to sink a shaft near his own house, and to his great joy discovered the water he needed all along was inside his own gate.

Your well is near. Go not in search of Jesus; his waters are under your feet.



Women's Recognition Sunday

July 19, 1998

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

Scoper is Woman's Missionary Union director at her church and co-chair of the Camp Garaywa Lodge Building Committee.

Directors of missions vote constitutional changes

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — The national conference of associational directors of missions and staff members adopted revisions to its constitution

and bylaws, broadening its membership and altering its registration fees during their annual meeting, June 7-8, at the Best Western Olympus Hotel in

Salt Lake City prior to the start of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

About 165 members of the Southern Baptist Conference of

Associational Directors of Missions also elected a Florida director of missions as 1998-99 president and adopted a job description for the group's administrator/treasurer, Charles Nunn, during its business sessions.

Spouses and guests boosted attendance at the event to about 300.

Nunn, retired executive director of missions for Richmond (Va.) Association, said the constitutional changes "retain the name, purpose, and membership," while changing the fee for membership.

"The individual membership will continue, but for the first time in the group's history, associations will be able to be members."

Under the revised

constitution, associational staff will be admitted as members on an annual fee scale of \$1 per congregation per year.

Registration fees formerly were assessed at \$25 per individual associational staff member.

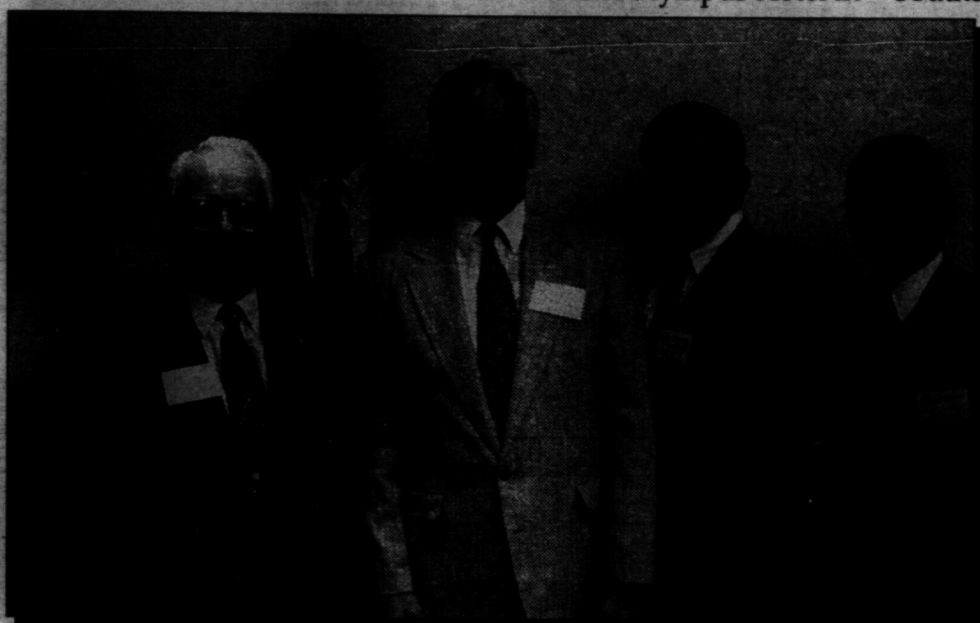
Nunn noted that the need for an associational fee approach was "twofold. Basically, we want to broaden the base to make it more inclusive than exclusive."

"The other part is training," he added. "We envision that we will be doing, in partnership with the North American Mission Board and state Baptist conventions, more regional training than in the past."

"Some of that has already been going on in the West for several years, but we will be building on that, and there is an open receptivity to do that."



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE



TAKING OFFICE — New officers of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions are: (from left) Charles B. Nunn Jr., Richmond, Va., executive treasurer; A. Joel Harrison, Atlanta, host director; Ernest K. Sadler, director of missions for Jackson County in Pascagoula, secretary; Edward W. Gilman, Largo, Fla., president; C. Don Beall, Federal Way, Wash., second vice president; and Gerald W. Jeffries, Bland, Mo., editor of "The DOM Viewpoint." Sadler has served as secretary for six years. (BP photo by Shari Schubert)

THE BAPTIST
Record

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Patterson recognized for years of service

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Mississippi Baptists and Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) supporters gathered July 11 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton to say "Thank you," and "Good-bye" to Mississippi WMU executive director-treasurer Marjean Patterson, who is retiring at the end of August after 41 years of ministry.

In a ceremony before more than 350 people, designed around a golfing theme and full of laughter, speaker after speaker shared memorable recollections of Patterson's years of service to Mississippi Baptists since the native Atlantan's arrival in the state in 1957.

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), reminded those gathered that Patterson's life and Camp Garaywa — the state Baptist Girls in Action (GA) campground — are "inseparably related."

"Records that I am aware of indicate that every summer, one out of every 10 campers makes a first time commitment to Jesus," Causey said.

"How can you measure 41 years of making that happen?" he asked.

Making reference to the power of the Holy Spirit in people's lives that causes positive change, Causey said, "I thank you, Marjean, for having that kind of quiet power in a daily walk with the Lord to remind us of the needs of a hurting world."

"Thank you for providing the magic of illuminating moments that have impacted so many lives," he said.

Eugene Dobbs, MBCB Executive Assistant, observed, "Today there are few mission stations around the world that have not been impacted by the mission giving of Mississippi Baptists."

From 1971, the year Patterson became Mississippi WMU executive director-treasurer, through this year, Mississippi Baptists have given \$106.5 million to Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, Dobbs pointed out.

"No one I know can more appropriately bear the title of 'Friend of Missions' than Marjean Patterson," Dobbs said.

Former MBCB executive director-treasurer Earl Kelly pointed out that in Patterson's 41 years of service to Mississippi Baptists, she "wore out two Baptist buildings, four executive directors, 40 associates, 77 secretaries, and is in the process of wearing out her fifth pastor!"

Patterson is a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, where Hal Kitchings is pastor.

Kelly went on to express appreciation for Patterson's relationship with Edwina Robinson, Mississippi WMU executive director-treasurer from 1944-1971.

"You honored yourself when you honored her," Kelly said.

Representing current and retired missionaries, retired missionary Indy Whitten of Clinton presented a poem in Patterson's honor, declaring her "Missionary to the World."

Dave Patterson of Washington, D.C., Patterson's nephew, shared a part of his special relationship with the woman he knows as "Auntie."

He told of a "defining moment in his life, when at about age eight Auntie claimed I put candy in (her) piano."

She later gave that piano to him. Before their recent move to Washington, D.C., he donated the piano to a local church.

Holding up a bag of M&Ms candy, he said, "...but before I let it go, I found all 32 pieces."

Patterson then announced that in honor of their aunt, he and his brother Douglas were going to place a piano in Patterson Place, the new adult lodge currently under construction at Camp Garaywa and named in honor of the retiring WMU executive.

Patterson was presented a new golf cart as an expression of appreciation for her years of service. The cart was a gift from current and former WMU staffers, current and former WMU executive board members, and special friends.

The retirement event was planned by a committee composed of Cissa Richardson, (chair) of Madison, Juanita Schilling of McComb, Donna Swarts of Magee, Joan Tyler of Collins, Margaret Ann Fortenberry of Ellisville, Mary Simmons of Meridian, and Sue Tatum of Yazoo City.

Current state WMU president Rebecca Williams of Gautier presided over the celebration.

"God has been so very good to me," Patterson said. "I pray the Lord will continue to bless us as Mississippi Baptists."



OFF-TO THE LINKS — Marjean Patterson, retiring executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), bids farewell to attendees who came to Camp Garaywa in Clinton on July 11 to honor her 41 years of ministry in Mississippi. The golf cart in which she is riding is a gift from current and former WMU staffers, current and former WMU executive board members, and special friends. Patterson will retire at the end of August. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Cooperation brings first VBS in 30 years

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

In Jefferson County just east of the town of Red Lick, a small red brick church is perched atop of a grass-covered hill.

On a Wednesday evening in late June, several cars pulled into the church's gravel driveway to drop off children for Vacation

Bible School (VBS) — the first in 30 years, according to Daniel Smith, VBS co-director and retired superintendent of education for Jefferson County.

The church is Mount Olive East Missionary Baptist Church, an African-American congregation of about 150 members pastored by Isaac Henderson.

The VBS is the result of a ministry started five years ago when the director of the Franklin County welfare office and another worker approached Marvin

Howard, pastor of Mount Zion Church in Franklin Association.

"They were talking about doing something for children in the summer," Howard said. Aware of his experience leading a mission VBS for children of the Choctaw Nation in Philadelphia, they wanted to know if he could help organize schools for some churches in Franklin and Jefferson Counties.

Howard applied for a grant from Grice Memorial Foundation in Nashville, founded in honor of VBS pioneer Homer Grice.

"The Grice Foundation provided materials for 10 schools that first year," Howard said.

Since then, VBS material is gathered

from churches around the state by Richard Brogan, consultant in the Mission Extension and Associational Administration (MEAA) Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Coordinating the work is Hattie Harris, a 19-year VBS veteran and the mother of eight children. Her husband is retired from the military.

Their youngest daughter Rachel is helping with VBS. She finished the University of Mississippi Medical School in Jackson this spring and will begin residency in the fall.

The 10 churches participating in this ministry have become an informal VBS association, Howard said.

On this June evening Harris, dressed in a cowboy hat and scarf, is leading her eighth week of VBS. Thus far the schools have enrolled about 400 children, averaging about 50 in attendance each night.

The opening assembly is a blend of the traditional Southern Baptist material using last year's western theme, with certain African-American influences.

Some of the songs are from a sheet published by Urban Ministries, Inc., the African-American Christian publishing and communication company.

There are the traditional pledges of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, the Christian flag, and the Bible. In addition, there is a pledge to not use drugs and to stay in school. At the end of the sessions, all classes regather in the auditorium for what is called "the review."

"In each class the children and adults write their own questions and bring them back and place them in the saddle bag," Harris said.

"What are the ABCs of salvation?" reads a question drawn from the bag.

A child from grades one through six rings the bell first. He answers, "Admit you are a sinner, believe on the Lord Jesus

Christ, and commit your life to him."

For answering correctly, he gets to place an "X" on the tic-tack-toe board.

"I love the excitement of the children," Harris said. "The children are gaining knowledge. We cannot blame them for knowledge they do not have," she said.

Just down the street from Mount Olive East Church, in the town of Red Lick, is the Muhammad University of New Islam. According to Harris, the mosque has been there about 10 years and is gaining influence in the community.

"That is why this (work) is so important," she said. "When the children learn that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and then someone else says, 'No, he is just a prophet,' they will know better."

For more information, contact Brogan at MEAA Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



GETTING READY — Marvin Howard (left), pastor of Mount Zion Church in Franklin Association, and Hattie Harris, coordinator for Vacation Bible School (VBS) for 10 churches in Franklin County, pass along instructions to volunteers prepping for VBS at Mount Olive East Missionary Baptist Church near Red Lick. (Photo by Carl M. White)



ALL TOGETHER NOW — David Young (left) holds the Bible aloft while Hattie Harris, co-director of Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Mount Olive East Missionary Baptist Church near Red Lick, instructs students where to find the pledge to the Bible in their VBS material. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Gulfshore Assembly is site of July 23-25 CML Conference

The Church Media Library (CML) Conference will be held at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on July 23-25 during the 1998 Growing Churches Through Bible Study Conference. CML directors and workers from across the state are urged to make reservations now at Gulfshore for an exciting week.

This year's conference will feature Stephen Gately, librarian for the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in Nashville, along with Hope Winter, media library director at Temple Church, Ruston, La., and also an approved Church Media Program worker.

Gately will lead the workshops on, Choosing Sears Subject Headings, Call Numbers that Work, and Ministering with Media. In addition to his duties with the convention, Gately is also the Library Director at First Church, Donelson, Tenn.

Winter is new to Mississippi, but has taught previously in Nashville conferences and at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. She will lead conferences

entitled, Library Administration: Getting the Work Done, Collection Development for Church Media Library, and Creating Promotion that Communicates.

For reservation information, contact Gulfshore Assembly directly at (601) 452-7261. Gulfshore accepts Mastercard and VISA for reservations and payment.

For conference information contact the Broadcast Services Department of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Winter



Gately

Interfaith Associate's Conference set for Sept. 18-19 in Jackson

The 1998 Interfaith Witness Associate's Training Conference has been scheduled for Sept. 18-19 at Southside Church in Jackson. The conference will begin at 3 p.m. on Sept. 18 and conclude at 3 p.m. on Sept. 19.

Interfaith Witness Evangelism (IWE) is an integral part of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) strategy to help Southern Baptists understand and witness effectively to people in America who belong to other religions that are experiencing rapid growth in the U.S.

Ed Deuschle, interfaith witness coordinator in the evangelism department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, reported the following courses will be offered for associate certification and will be taught by staffers in the NAMB interfaith witness department:

Islam — N.S.R.K. Ravi, instructor
Jehovah Witness — Tal Davis, instructor
Occult — Jimmy Furr, instructor.

Deuschle said conference participants must be recommended by their director of missions, and must agree to lead awareness conferences in their associations. Associations are encouraged to select one person per course, he added.

Individuals planning to attend must each submit a \$10 materials fee along with a registration form by the deadline of August 15. Meals, lodging, and travel reimbursement are available upon request. No child care will be provided.

Persons interested in attending the conference should contact their local director of missions. For more information, contact a director of missions or Deuschle at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

N. Korean food relief reaches destination

WONSAN, North Korea — Workers in North Korea are unloading about 4.7 million pounds of food and various medicines that arrived from Southern Baptists June 24.

A five-member Southern Baptist delegation flew into the country in late June to meet with government officials and see the first boxes of aid carried off of the mercy ship Evangeline and trucked to various schools and hospitals around the port city Wonsan.

Southern Baptists from 28

states donated nearly 10,000 boxes of food, each stickered with a logo saying "Southern Baptists in America's Love Gifts to North Korea." Each box should feed five people for a month. In addition, money gifts designated for food came in from 27 states.

"Those thousands and thousands of boxes with little yellow stickers on them were really impressive to see sitting on that ship," said Mike Williams, chief financial officer for the Georgia Baptist Convention. Williams was chosen as a dele-

gation member because Georgians contributed nearly \$65,000 to the effort.

Port authority officials and government leaders related to the country's Flood Disaster Rehabilitation Committee were taken aback by the sight of the heavily laden ship — knowing all of the food had been donated freely through the concern of individual people, he said.

"That was a tremendous testimony. We can't measure how effective that testimony was," Williams added.

Besides the food boxes, the Evangeline also carried about 950,000 pounds of dried corn, flour, rice and sugar, and 925,000 pounds of dehydrated soup mix — enough for 23.1 million soup meals. It was all bought with \$725,000 in Southern Baptist World Hunger Funds.

World Hunger Funds also bought 18,500 pounds of health products, mostly remedies for upset stomachs and other hunger-related maladies. LeSea Global Feed the Hungry, which owns the Evangeline, donated 2 million pounds of food to round out the shipment. The ship left port in New Orleans May 3.

Schoolchildren met the delegation with songs and drama presentations about nature and in tribute to "The Great Leader" of their country. The delegation toured schools and hospitals.

Devastating floods in 1995 and 1996 raked away topsoil and dumped mounds of sand throughout North Korea. A drought in 1997 further damaged the land and economy. And a tidal wave June 2 washed crop-damaging saltwater into rice paddies in Kangwon Province, where the aid was to be delivered.

The arrival of the ship just after the tidal wave represented a further witness to the people. "We had decided with the committee on Wonsan as the port, but we had no idea then there was to be a tidal wave on June 2," said one Southern Baptist consultant. "They said this was the first relief ship to arrive since the tidal wave, and they were expecting a low crop yield. The rice crops were yellow, and they were supposed to be green."

The trip opened Williams' eyes to the neediness of North Koreans, both materially and spiritually. "This effort is well worth our time and energy," he said. "We reaped great dividends in terms of respect. The North Koreans were very impressed with the fact that we offer food without any strings attached."

When North Koreans asked why they didn't drink alcohol at meals, delegation members replied it was because of their faith and devotion to Jesus.

Two consultants with the delegation discussed plans with North Korean officials for another aid shipment, possibly in the fall. Officials told them 10 tons of food before the end of September is equivalent in its effect to 100 tons at the end of the year, simply because food from the harvest is expected to be running out by then.

"They welcome us," said a consultant. "They've been very open about distribution and working on strategic plans with us about where it is needed most. We have a very good relationship with those responsible for coordinating relief efforts."

CBF to begin chaplaincy endorsements

ATLANTA (ABP) — A joint board for the armed services has approved the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) as an endorsing body for chaplains in the military.

The executive director of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board, U.S. Navy Capt. M.R. Ferguson, wrote a letter reporting the board's June 3 vote to recognize the Atlanta-based Fellowship as "an ecclesiastical endorsing agent to nominate clergy for the military chaplaincy."

Fellowship leaders received the letter June 12.

The Fellowship, a group for moderate Southern Baptists, voted last year to begin endorsing chaplains, counselors and ministers in other specialized settings who either could not be or do not desire to be endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention.

A CBF council on endorsement established last November has nominated four military chaplains who are now in the process of applying with their individual branches of the service, said Gary Baldrige, associate global-missions coordinator. Baldrige said their endorsement by the CBF will be announced when that process is complete.

To date, the council has endorsed 10 chaplains and pastoral counselors for posts mainly in the health-care field. More than 200 other applications are in various stages of the endorsement process, Baldrige said.

Staying Well Informed

Baptist to Install Breakthrough Cancer Treatment Equipment

Radiation therapy for cancer has come a long way since its inception decades ago. Starting from what were by today's standards relatively crude treatments using high doses of radiation, physicians and therapists have been able to gradually increase the effectiveness of treatment, while decreasing side effects for patients.

In 1992, neurosurgeon Dr. Mark Carol patented a system called Peacock®, which uses a computer-controlled instrument to aim pencil-thin beams of radiation at the tumor with millisecond accuracy. This allows for powerful treatment of tumors of various sizes and shapes while minimizing damage to surrounding tissues. It also gives patients fewer of the complications associated with conventional radiation therapy, such as nausea, fatigue, radiation sores and loss of appetite or vision. The technology, called Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy, has been called the biggest breakthrough in cancer treatment in 30 years.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS

VBS dates

Euclatubba, Saltillo: July 27-31; 6-8 p.m.; call (601) 869-2585 for more information.

Enon, Grenada: July 20-24; 6-8 p.m.; call (601) 226-8980 for more information.

Cloverdale, Natchez: July 20-24; 8:30-11:45 a.m.; Kathy Saunders, director; David McCuffee, pastor; call (601) 446-6181 or (318) 336-7347 for more information.



Lorena Church, Smith Association, recently celebrated perfect attendance with six of its members. Pictured (back, from left) are Jim Praet, Sunday School director; Betty Stewart; Chris Anderson; Randy Henderson; Nicky Henderson; Casey Gainey; and Hunter Gainey.



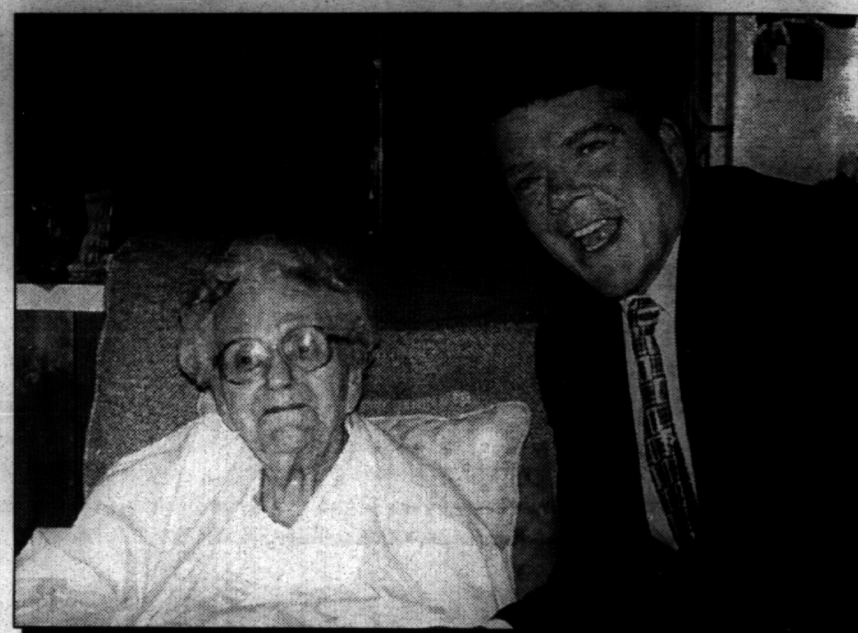
Hernando Church, Hernando, licensed **Paul Chrestman** to the ministry on May 31. He has completed two years at Northwest Community College and will enter Mississippi College this fall. Two weeks after he was licensed, Chrestman flew to the Ukraine to serve as a BSU summer missionary. Pictured with Chrestman is James Spencer, pastor; and his parents, Paul R. and Mary Chrestman.



Pine Hill Church, Enterprise, honored the four oldest mothers present on Mother's Day. Pine Hill Church, with a membership of only 81, has four ladies who are in their nineties. Pictured, from left, are Danny Bullock, interim pastor; Annie Mae Kidd, 91; Onie Lawson, 92; Alice Valentine, 94; and Lillian Everett, 92. Valentine and Everett are sisters and Kidd is a sister-in-law.

Joseph Neil (Joey) Wilkinson received a master of church music degree during the annual commencement held on May 22 at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Wilkerson, son of Ron and Marietta Wilkinson of Yazoo City, is a graduate of the University of Mississippi. He has been called as minister of music at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson.

Tommy Lane, minister of music at First Church, Coldwater, was recently given a plaque and honored on Dr. Tommy Lane Day. He has been Coldwater's music minister since 1990. When Lane, 76, retired from Bellevue Church, Memphis, in 1986, President Reagan sent him a letter. "Retirement at 65 is too young," wrote Reagan, who was 75 that year.



Evie Dillard, charter member of Calvary Church, Tupelo, celebrated her 100th birthday on June 26. Dillard is pictured with her pastor, Bryant Barnes.



Larry Lindsey and **Jeff Kidd** were ordained as deacons by Monument Drive Church, Tupelo, on June 7. Pictured (from left) are Kidd; Tommy Tackett, pastor; and Lindsey.

HOMEcomings

County Line, Carthage: July 26; 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall at noon; Billy McKay, Pelahatchie, guest speaker; Mark Pilgrim, pastor.

Second, Calhoun City: July 26; 10:30 a.m.; Kenneth

McMillen, director of missions, Riverside Association in Livingston, Tenn., guest speaker; lunch will follow services.

First, Satartia: July 19; 11 a.m.; James Allgood, preaching.

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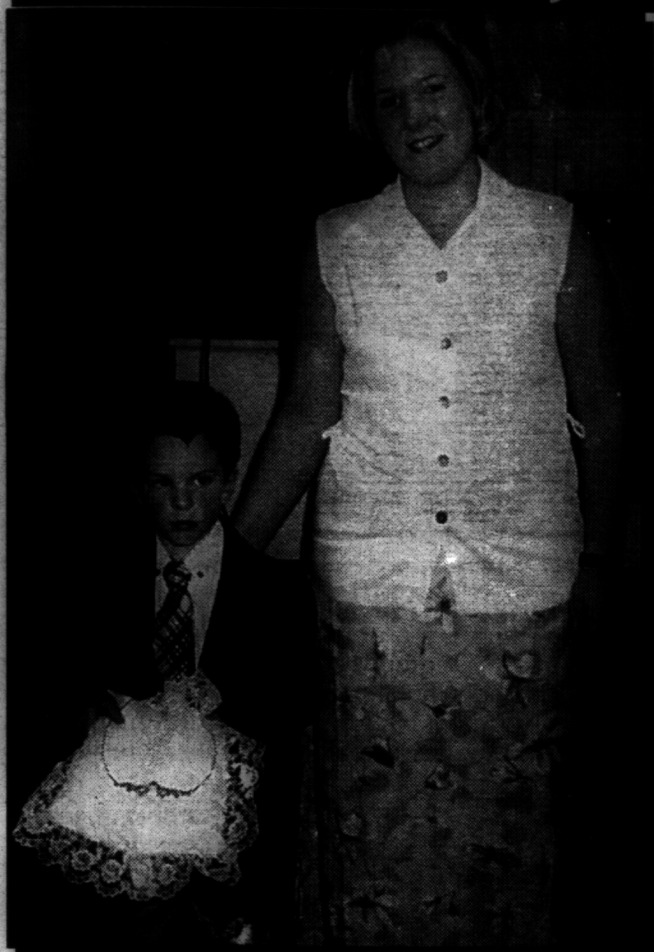
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



An Acteen award ceremony was recently held at Sherman Church, Sherman, to honor Kelly Webb as queen. Pictured with Webb is Luke Flaherty, crown bearer. Parish Hartley is pastor.

We are One In the Body of Christ



GAs of Holcomb Church, Holcomb, started in January making posters and handouts for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. On Sunday mornings the GAs gave out treats with notes attached reminding members to pray and give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. They also organized a bake sale for donations. A goal of \$250 was reached with a total of \$303.10. Pictured are (bottom row, from left) Crissy Terry, Meredith Carver, Amber Floyd; (second row) Laura Jane Hill, Grace Ashley, and Carissa Hanley. Not pictured is Kayla Rowe. Jan Fields is leader.

McLaurin First Church, Hattiesburg, will celebrate its 100th anniversary and homecoming on July 25 and 26. Saturday, worship program will begin at 4 p.m. with historical program presented. Sunday, worship begins at 10 a.m.; followed by lunch at 12:30 p.m. in fellowship hall, and afternoon services at 2 p.m. Carlis Braswell is pastor. For more information, call (601) 583-9941.

Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale, will hold its 100th anniversary celebration on Aug. 2 from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. The theme for this event is "Celebrating 100 years of Heritage and Hope 1898-1998."

Walnut Church, Walnut, will present the Southland Quartet of Walnut and Paid in Full of New Albany in concert July 19 at 6 p.m. Samuel Cox is pastor.



Lorena Church, Smith Association, recently held graduation for its children's church. Graduates are: (back row, from left) Helen Faulkner, Hunter Gainey, Wesley Warren; (front row) Cass Evans, Scott Moss, Colby Hawkins. Also pictured is Jim Praet, Sunday School director.

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Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will feature Carroll Robertson at its 35th anniversary Aug. 2. Activities include morning message at 11 a.m.; fellowship meal; and afternoon concert.

Hopewell Church, Scott Association, will celebrate its 150th year July 26. Richard Ethridge of the Historical Commission will present the church with a plaque. (See revivals dates for more information).

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College Music Department will present Tonya Morgan of Clinton in a graduate piano recital on July 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Aven Auditorium on campus. Morgan is a student of Ralph Taylor. She is the daughter of Mike and Brenda Morgan of Iuka, and a member of First Church, Booneville.

Survival Weekend '98, hosted by the William Carey College Baptist Student Union (BSU), will take place Aug. 15-17, prior to the beginning of classes on the Hattiesburg campus. Registration for the weekend will begin in the Student Center Aug. 14 at 4:30 p.m. The fee of \$20 includes all activities, meals,

and a T-shirt. Students can check into dorms between 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Friday. Speakers will be Wynde Fitts, student support services counselor; Gary Maze, pastor of Horizon Community Church, Jackson; and Dave Hunt, music director of BSU at Belmont University, Nashville, Tenn. Priority Lunch is scheduled every Thursday from 11:45 a.m. until 12:25 p.m. through the cooperation of area churches; and The Main Event is scheduled every Wednesday at 9 p.m. when a varied program of worship and entertainment is presented. For more information contact Tim Glaze, director of the BSU, at (601) 582-6161 or the BSU office at 582-6386.

William Carey College's commencement exercises will be held on Aug. 8 at 10 a.m. in Dumas Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus. The speaker will be E. D. Hodo, president of Houston Baptist University. Cloyd Ezell, vice president for academic affairs, will present candidates, and Larry Kennedy, interim president, will confer degrees.

William Carey College Center for Creative Scholars will present the seventh annual Creativity Exploration for 2nd through 6th graders July 20-22, and for 7th through 12th graders July 21-23 from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on the Hattiesburg campus. Tuition is \$50 per student and includes all materials, supplies, refreshment breaks, and lunches. For more information on enrollment and about registration call Trudy Abel at (601) 582-6191, or write The Center for Creative Scholars, Box 148, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.



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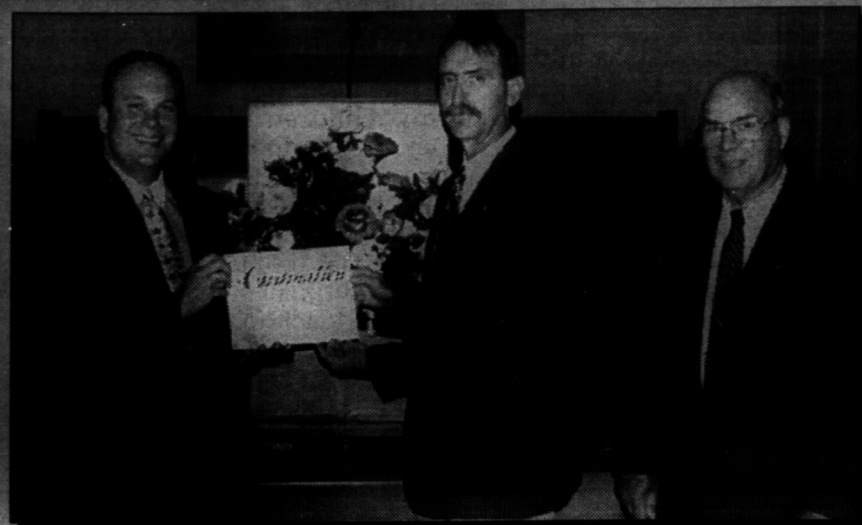
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SINCE 1953

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Poplar Springs Church, Newton Association, ordained **Tim Mowdy** and **Danny Rains** as deacons on May 31. On program were **Curtis Guess**, pastor of Weir Church, Choctaw Association, and **Bob Sanderson**, director of missions for Newton and Scott Association. A reception for Mowdy and Rains was held following the service. Pictured (from left) are Guess; Charles Bonner, pastor; Mowdy; Rains; and Sanderson.



Whitesand Church, Prentiss, recently ordained **Chuck Myers** to the gospel ministry. He serves as minister of music and activities at Whitesand Church. Pictured (from left) are Myers, John Slater, and George G. Aultman, interim pastor.



Pine Hill Church, Enterprise, recently held a Deacon Ordination Service. Pictured (from left) are **George Speed**; **Danny Bullock**, interim pastor; and **Ronnie Heathcock**.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Ronny Robinson, executive director of the Baptist Children's Village, will be the guest speaker at Poplar Springs Church, Newton Association, for the morning service on July 26. Poplar Springs Church supports the Children's Village with an annual walk-a-thon each year. Participants (pictured) for the walk-a-thon this year raised \$4,144.

Midway Church, Newton, organized in 1878, will celebrate its 120th anniversary July 26. Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by 11:30 a.m. lunch in fellowship hall. **Mike Smith**, former pastor of Midway Church and current director of missions for Neshoba Association, will be the guest speaker. An afternoon worship service and church history presentation will begin at 1 p.m. Open house for the pastorium will be held at 2:30 p.m. **Wayne Miley** is pastor. For more information call (601) 683-6640.

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, will hold God and Country Day July 19 at 10:30 a.m. **Tim Lee**, evangelist and Vietnam Veteran, will be the speaker. Lunch will be served following the services.

REVIVAL DATES

Pleasant Grove, Brookhaven: July 19-24; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; **Wayne VanHorn**, Columbia, evangelist; **Thomas Moak**, Bogue Chitto, music; **Kent H. Cochran**, pastor.

Blackwater (Kemper): July 19-24; Sun.-Fri., 7 p.m.; **Gary Jackson**, pastor, Bethsaida Church, Oktibbeha Association, evangelist; **Wesley Landrum**, pastor.

Sallis, Sallis: July 19-24; 7 p.m.; **Jerry Jackson**, pastor of Bethsaida Church, Montgomery Association (he is also a radio personality better known as C. W.), guest speaker; **Thomas Wicker**, pastor.

Providence, Meadville: July 19-24; Sunday, 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; **Les Hughes**, Clinton, evangelist; **Phillip Alford**, McComb, music; **Cletus Moak**, pastor.

Hopewell (Scott): 150th anniversary; July 26-30; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; **Paul Smith**, Scott County, evangelist; **Danny Harrison**, Hopewell Church, music; **Mark McDonald**, pastor.

Johns, Brandon: July 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7:30 p.m.; **Barry Ward**, evangelist; **K. W. Douglas**, music; **Howard Benton**, pastor.

First, Satartia: July 20-22; 7:30 p.m.; **Jeff Parker**, Southside Church, Jackson, preaching.

Mt. Moriah (Lincoln): July 19-23; Sun. services, 11 a.m.

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dinner in fellowship hall, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; **David Williams**, Monticello, evangelist; **Stacy and Deborah Smith**, New Sight Church, Lincoln County, music; **Danny Moss**, pastor.

Old Hebron (Covington-Jefferson Davis): July 26-31; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; **Richard Green**, Bethany Church, speaker; **David Henderson**, New Hebron Church, music; **Randy Gardner**, pastor.

Liberty (Mississippi): July 19-22; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon (complimentary lunch) and 7 p.m.; **Jim Futral**, Jackson, evangelist; **Greg Bearden**, Agricola, music; **Martin Hayden**, pastor.

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DESIGNATION APPALLING

Editor:

I have read the article in the June 25 issue of The Baptist Record which states in the second paragraph, "Elliff also said Southern Baptists have God to thank for ridding their convention of parasites, an apparent reference to organizations of moderate Southern Baptists...."

I am appalled that anyone, not to mention a president of the SBC, could so designate other Baptists and faithful Christians apparently because they fail to qualify for his standards of orthodoxy.

Should not we all turn again to the seventh chapter of Matthew which states in the Contemporary English Version, "Don't condemn others and God won't condemn you. God will be as hard on you as you are on others! He will treat you exactly as you treat them."

Cecile Alexander
Clinton

A FAMILIAR SOUND

Editor:

In 1989 I sat before an ordination council and wept when I was asked how I felt about the rift in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). My emotions betrayed a deep heartbreak that my mind had overlooked.

I told the ordination council my sorrow was the realization that my then-newborn son would not grow up a Southern

Baptist like I had.

Nine years later, my sorrow has been realized. My children will not be Southern Baptist like me. I will not be surprised if my children choose some other denomination or non-denomination.

My sadness has been compounded. At the SBC annual meeting last week, the immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Tom Elliff, called me a "parasite."

Hershel Hobbs would not have called those with whom he disagreed parasites. Duke McCall probably never called anyone a parasite. Landrum Leavell is certain to avoid identifying people as a parasites. I don't even think Newt Gingrich would call Bill Clinton a parasite.

Elliff didn't identify me personally, but I know about whom he was speaking. What I always suspected they were saying behind my back is now out in the open. I would be more wounded if I didn't remember the words to the hymn:

*Alas and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sovereign die. Would
he devote that sacred Head, for-
such a worm as I?*

I knew that parasite thing sounded familiar.

Richard Green
Laurel

STATEMENT VALIDATED

Editor:

In the June 25 edition, editor William Perkins made this

statement: "A lost world will always be watching intently to determine if our words and actions match those of the Savior we profess."

I pastored in northern Illinois for nearly eight years, where I saw this statement clearly validated. As I would go out into the community, the almost universal response would be, "You're the people who are always fighting with each other," and as they felt justified to reject my denomination, they also felt justified in rejecting my Lord.

I was extremely disturbed to read some of the comments that came out of this year's convention. Tom Elliff was quoted as having said, "Southern Baptists have God to thank for ridding their convention of 'parasites.'"

James Merritt stated, "A battle was fought, a war was waged, blood was spilled, but we took our stand."

This does not seem to me to be language of agape. It seems more to be language of pride and arrogance, and is the very type of statement that causes Southern Baptists in pioneer areas to face almost insurmountable obstacles in reaching their communities for Christ.

The past twenty years have not been "our finest hour" (Merritt's phrase). Rather than an occasion for pride or even gloating, this should be a time of grieving and repentance for the damage that has been done to God's Kingdom.

Richard Shropshire
D'Iberville

SINCERELY CONCERNED

Editor:

Reference is made to the doctrinal statement as adopted by messengers who were present at the Southern Baptist Convention in Salt Lake City.

Why was it necessary to adopt this statement since the Holy Word of God clearly speaks to the roles of man, woman and family? It has become the rule that each time the powers now in control of the Southern Baptist Convention meet in conference, they manage to provoke not only a multitude of our brothers and sisters of other Christian denominations but many of us who are Southern Baptist.

By the way, congratulations to our leaders in Nashville! They have finally moved so far to the right that Jerry Falwell has decided to become a part-time Southern Baptist.

I am just a lowly sinner, made acceptable by his amazing grace, and I remain sincerely concerned.

Mickey Corban
Pearl

HOPE FOR APOLOGY

Editor:

Your associate editor (Carl M. White in his Pastor's Perspective, June 18) says of the SBC presidency, "Now, there is not a choice, or a chance to even vote. There was one candidate, declared by the chair to be elected by acclamation. No vote. No ballot. No choice."

Presidents of the convention are nominated from the podium. Paige Patterson was nominated by the only person who came to the podium to nominate someone. The chair asked the convention two or three times if there was anyone who wanted to make a nomination — there was none. The chair then asked the Registration Secretary to act as convention rules dictate by casting the ballot for the entire convention.

Lee Porter, not known as conservative, has been elected for 21 years by the very convention in which the associate editor says there is "No vote. No ballot. No choice." If he told the truth how did this happen?

"If you are a Bible-believing. missions and evangelism-committed Southern Baptist, you'll eventually be happy with the direction and leadership of the convention." Why "eventually?" (White,) like a minority of other Baptists, is not happy with record offerings and record missionary appointments because of the way they came about and can't get over it — but it would be a real blessing if all of us forgave any perceived inequities and moved ahead. A bitter spirit with skewed reporting hurts all of us. I hope he will apologize.

Bobby T. Hood
Richton

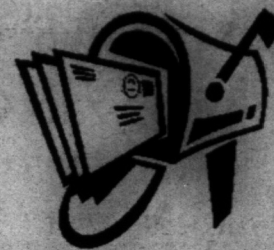
CLEAR & HONEST WORDS

Editor:

I've never been to a Southern Baptist Convention, but from what I've read over the years I agree completely with Carl M. White (in his June 18 Pastor's Perspective entitled) "The future I fear."

I thank him for putting it into such clear and honest words.

Mary M. Jones
Yazoo City



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Living in God's will

1 Peter 4:1-11

By William H. Sims, III

H. Jackson Brown Jr. of Nashville, Tenn., tells how he came to write the best seller, "Life's Little Instruction Book." Brown realized he had driven a wedge between himself and his son. One day in Nashville a sign spoke words of power. "Closed for remodeling: Opening soon under new management." Brown determined to totally remodel his own life. Applying the principle he restored a healthy relationship with his son. Many times we need to remodel our Christian life. When we remain stationary, our walk with Jesus becomes stale. Peter offered six examples his readers could apply to evaluate their walk.

Live like Christ

(4:1-2). Peter reminds his readers of the sufferings of Christ based on 3:18, emphasizing the reality of Christ's suffering "in the flesh." He was preparing his readers for the suffering which would come because of their faith. Knowing surely that suffering was unavoidable, Peter recommended that believers prepare for the battle. This same instruction is found in Ephesians 6:11. Many would like to be excused from the Christian life because of suffering. Yet, Peter lifts up Jesus as the example to follow. As Jesus was obedient to his Father through suffering, we find ultimate strength in this example.

Leave un-Christian actions

Sims

(4:3-6). Within this section, Peter addressed several evil practices that characterized an ungodly soul. The word "lasciviousness" denotes disgusting conduct. Any conduct that dampens our light for Jesus must be totally abandoned. Remember, we may be the only Christian some ever see. "Lusts" means uncontrolled craving for that which is immoral, especially sexual indulgence. One of the greatest ministries for youth is "True Love Waits." This program requires youth to keep their lives pure. Pastors are urged to share the truth, sex outside marriage or before marriage is SIN. "Excess of wine" is not difficult to define in modern times — drunkenness. This social sin contributed to the ruin of ancient Rome and is contributing to the destruction of modern America. Many church members have never given Jesus vic-

tory over drunkenness. A truth to remember, if Satan has you on one lie, he will win on many others. God will hold everyone responsible for their actions and convictions. One of the reasons many are not experiencing joy in Jesus, is acceptance of worldly, devilish views. If any action is not grounded in God's Holy Word, it is WRONG.

Listen sincerely (4:7). Peter unashamedly proclaimed the return of Jesus. They should be prepared at any moment to give an account of their life. Keeping a consecrated prayer life will strengthen their convictions. When we spend time with our Lord, he will reveal truth. Whenever I face questions about life, prayer will solve any dilemma. We need to listen more to Jesus and less to this social sin-sick world.

Love others (4:8). Peter showed how genuine love for our fellow man will overlook the mistakes of others. This verse needs to be applied by

every church member. Godly love looks for the best, uplifts the brotherhood, embraces the discouraged and never spreads untruth. The strongest place to find and extend love MUST be the house of God.

Lead A hospitable life (4:9). Hospitality is love in action! Hospitality is reaching out to those less fortunate. This action is carried out with joy and forsaking any negative attitudes. As a pastor, one of the greatest joys is to witness our church reaching out. This action unites us and keeps us on our mission.

Lift the name of Jesus (4:10-11). Every believer has a spiritual gift. When we discover and deploy our gift, others are benefited. When others receive our service, they truly know Jesus has changed our life. We lift high the name of Jesus when we serve others.

The Christian life is serving others by the power of the cross. Sims is pastor of First Church, Pontotoc.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Be a good neighbor

Proverbs 3:27-35; 14:21

By Nancie E. Simmons

Back in the day when the West was being settled, people lived miles from each other. Because it was such a long way to the nearest town, people relied on neighbors to get hard jobs done, such as raising buildings.

How things have changed today! We all live close to our neighbors compared to the pioneers and because of this we sometimes take them for granted. We are all so busy with our lives that we fail to stop and take the time to see who is right next door.

Live responsibly (3:27-28). A neighbor is someone more than the person who lives

beside us. I feel we are all neighbors on this planet. I like to help people, but unfortunately I feel inadequate because I do not have an overabundance of money to give.

On the other hand, we all have resources other than money to use to be a good neighbor such as listening, cooking, free time, people skills, organization, etc. What a shame it is that some people selfishly hoard their talents instead of freely giving.

Live peacefully (3:29-30). The second most important commandment that God gave us is "love your neighbor as yourself." A person should never plot against his neighbor to better

himself or do anything to his neighbor that he would not do to himself. This is a good rule to remember and judge your motives against.

Because of the moral decline of our society, sadly it is becoming more difficult to assume that the people in our communities would never do anything to cause us harm. I think of old TV shows like Andy Griffith and Leave it to Beaver which feature towns where a person did not have to lock their doors and parents felt safe letting their children play outside until after dark. Everyone knew everyone else, especially the folks next door. These towns did not have to face gang violence, bomb threats, rapists, or gunmen in schools.

Live justly (3:31-35). Also, it seems to me that people today

are caught up with "keeping up with the Joneses." The one with the most "toys" does not win. Placing wealth and possessions above all other priorities can cause people to lose focus on right and wrong. We stop at nothing to get ahead and this makes us guilty of only focusing on ourselves instead of looking out for others. We might even withhold knowledge to better ourselves instead of sharing it with our neighbors to help them. We should all be working toward the same goal: reaching the lost for Christ.

Live kindly (14:21). How many times are we guilty of judging people by the way they look like or what they wear? Too much emphasis is placed on outside appearance, and I am guilty of this so often. How would we look at Jesus if he had been born into today's society?

Even though Jesus was born a

poor carpenter's son, all classes of people came to Jesus to be healed or hear him preach and he accepted or helped all of them no matter their appearance. We should model our lives after Jesus' life and he shows us time and time again how to be a good neighbor.

It says in 1 John if "you are a Christian but hate your brother then you are still in the darkness, but if you love your brother and are a Christian, then you are in the light!" I always associate light with God. Please let your light shine when dealing with other people who are your neighbors.

We are all faced with the same problems of everyday life, and there is strength in numbers. Make sure your priorities are in order when dealing with your neighbors and always use what you have to serve the Lord.

Simmons teaches music at Harper McCaughan Elementary and is a member of First Church, Gulfport.

LIFE AND WORK

Confront in love

Matt. 18:15-17; Gal. 5:12-15; 6:1-5

By Kevin Hand

People deal with conflict in different ways. Some avoid confrontation, which often allows bitterness to grow and prevents a proper solution. Others confront too quickly and harshly, which usually makes conflict worse. When people who are in conflict confront each other in love, they are more likely to avoid adversarial situations and to find constructive solutions to their problems. This week's lesson is designed to help us understand how we can confront people in a loving manner in order to help us resolve conflicts.

Process (Matt. 18:15-17). Believers are to follow biblical

guidelines in seeking to resolve conflict situations. Jesus detailed a process for seeking to resolve

conflicts between two believers. First, the offended party is to go to the offender and seek to straighten out the matter between themselves, one on one. At the first sign of conflict we should go straight to the source, rather than getting other people involved.

Secondly, Jesus said if the first attempt is rejected, the offended party is to take one or two others along in the attempt at resolution. If this attempt to resolve the issue also is rebuffed, then the local church is to become involved in seek-

ing to settle the dispute. Finally, if the offender persists in his belligerence, the church is to treat him as an unbeliever.

Principle (Gal. 5:13-15). Christians are called to exercise their freedom by serving one another in love, rather than serving their sinful nature. Not only is the command to love one's neighbor part of the Old Testament law (Lev. 19:18), but also it is said to be the fulfillment of the entire law. To do the opposite and persist in attacking each other only leads to a worse and more destructive situation.

Christians are responsible to act in love toward others even in conflict situations. When they do so, they serve the other person and help keep the conflict from getting worse.

Purposes (Gal. 6:1-5). When a believer is "caught in a sin" (v.1, NIV), the more spiritually

mature believers should try to restore the erring one. The Greek word for "restore" also means to join, mend, and repair. The gentle approach to restoration described by Paul is redemptive rather than punitive.

In seeking to help restore another believer, these helpers must be careful that they also do not fall prey to sin. One specific danger for them is to compare themselves with the fallen believer and thereby develop a false sense of pride in their own spiritual superiority.

As believers, we are to confront others in love as an attempt to restore them to spiritual health. Before we confront others, however, we need to re-examine our own actions and attitudes by the same standards we apply to others.

When seeking to resolve conflict, people must also work on settling the issue that created the conflict between

them. Confronting in love may help resolve the interpersonal aspect of the conflict situation, but the substance of the conflict may remain. For example, if someone owes another person money and there are hard feelings and strained relationships between them over it, resolving the interpersonal problem does not cancel the financial debt. Thus, in any conflict situation, Christians need to do what is right to settle the issue between them. It may require making amends or restitution.

Christians are not exempt from conflict. The good news is that God's Word tells us how to deal with it. The next time you find yourself involved in a conflict situation, don't fight—forgive, don't avoid—address, don't get on the phone—get on your knees. Then confront in love and resolve the problem.

Hand is pastor of First Church, Magee.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

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Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Ms. Betty Loftis has retired from The Baptist Children's Village after seven years of dedicated service. She has worked as a child care worker on several of the five BCV campuses.

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Holding the ropes



Staff members from several churches in the Metro Association toured the ropes course facility on the India Nunnery campus. They had the opportunity to participate in several of the elements used in this ministry as counseling tools to build self-esteem and trust.

Mississippians appointed to foreign service

Karl C. and L. Katherine (Kathy) Raines Bush and Mark P. and Deanna L. Mashburn Ledlow were among 40 people appointed by the International Mission Board June 10 during a service at Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City.

The Bushes will live in West Africa. West Africa missions personnel are working to start sustainable evangelism and church growth movements within each people group in the region without regard to geography or political boundaries.

He will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. They are members of Bagwell (Texas) Church, where he was pastor from 1991 to 1996.

Born in Pascagoula, Karl Bush grew up in Hurley and considers it his hometown.

He is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and attended Criswell College in Dallas.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Kathy Bush is also a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and attended Converse College in Spartanburg, S. C.

The Bushes have four children: Seth Karl, born in 1985; Jacob Daniel, 1987; David Nathanael, 1989; and Jesse Samuel, 1991.

The Ledlows, missionary associates, will live in West Africa. He will work as a business facilitator and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, Mark Ledlow is the son of Betty Ledlow of Newton, Miss., and the late F. E. Ledlow Jr.

He is a graduate of Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College in San Dimas, Calif.

Born and reared in Tucson, Ariz., Deanna Ledlow attended Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College.

They both consider Emmanuel Church, Tucson, their home church.

The Ledlows have two children:

Jeremy Ryan, born in 1986; and Stephanie Lynn, 1988.

Ecuador missionary dies

QUITO, Ecuador (BP) — Philo A. Workman, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary to Ecuador, died in his sleep early June 20 in Quito, Ecuador. He was 46 years old.

The cause of death was unknown. A co-worker was unable to awaken him for an early plane flight, and he was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

Workman, his wife, Sylvia, and their two children, David, 14, and Sarah, 9, had just

returned to Ecuador in May from a six-month furlough in the United States and were in the process of relocating from their former home in Loja to Esmeraldas to work with a church-planting team.

The Workmans were appointed in 1995. A native of Kewanee, Ill., he graduated from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz., and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He was a church planter and pastor with the North American Mission Board in Laughlin, Nev., from 1985-95.

Memorial services were held in Ecuador among missionaries June 20 and were expected to be scheduled in Illinois after the family's return to the U.S..

Archivist warns churches to begin preparation now

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Panic. That's what many church leaders feel when a 50- or 100-year anniversary is about to roll around and they realize any historical documents or photographs they might have are buried in the basement of the first pastor — who passed to glory in 1956.

Bill Sumners, director and archivist for the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, considers churches with any documented history fortunate.

"It's very, very common for a church not to have a first 50 years of history at all," said Sumners, who led seminars on collecting and preserving church history at the National Conference for Church Leadership conference, June 26-July 3 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

A survey taken several years back through the (uniform church letter) revealed only about one-fourth of Southern Baptist churches have a church history committee, Sumners said. Even fewer archive any documents or photographs.

"They don't really worry about it until they are about to celebrate a significant anniversary or if they want to write a church history."

Without historical documents, Southern Baptists would not know who the first single, female missionary to China was, or who served as the first man to evangelize Jewish people. (Harriet Baker was called to missions in the 1850s and Jacob Gardenhouse served as a home missionary from the 1920s to the late 1940s.)

"We wouldn't know much about history if it weren't for archives," Sumners said. Southern Baptists owe it to their churches' first leaders to record history, he added. A list of materials that can be archived, Sumners said, includes:

1. Charter, bylaws, property records, covenant
2. Legal documents
3. Architectural drawings and plans
4. Minutes — business meetings, deacons, committees, WMU
5. Membership records
6. Sunday School records and related records
7. Reports and studies
8. Pastors and staff files/sermons
9. Publications and programs
10. Scrapbooks and clippings
11. Photographs and audio visual material
12. Selected artifacts
13. Subject files on programs and ministries (church history file)

"Once you begin gathering the materials, the archivist needs to settle on a simple index system and catalog the items. It should be simple, because the people who come later may not have a lot of time to spend indexing," he said.

Churches interested in learning more about archiving can call Sumners at (615) 244-0344 or e-mail him at bsumners@edge.net. Archival starter kits can be ordered by calling the same telephone number.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

Is domestic violence really a problem in our part of the country?

Domestic violence occurs in all cultural, ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups. It is a pattern of purposeful behavior directed at achieving control over the victim of the abuse, and has at its core the factors of fear, frustration, and irresponsibility. It has been going on for centuries and, yes, it is a problem in our part of the country. Consider these facts compiled from various sources:

◆ At least half of homicides in the U.S. are committed by someone known to the victim, implying a high rate of domestic abuse is likely involved.

◆ Domestic violence to some extent affects as many as one-fourth of all American families.

◆ Six of ten U.S. couples will experience domestic violence at some point in their marriage.

◆ Battering is the single most common cause of injury to women in the U.S. — more than auto accidents, muggings, and stranger rapes combined.

◆ Among American women aged 15-44, domestic violence is listed specifically as the leading cause of injury.

There are many ways to confront this growing problem. One of the most important is to

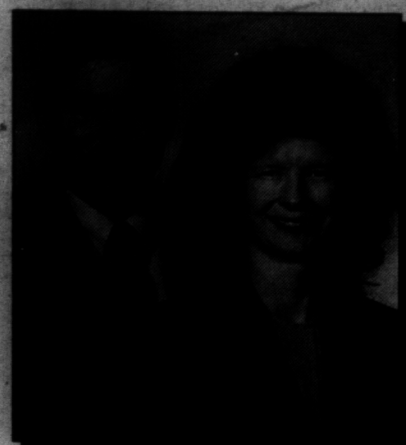
teach children proper techniques for dealing with conflict and resolving disagreements in a Christian manner.

An excellent resource on this subject is "Violence in Society" by Hope Evanson with a forward by Elizabeth K. Holmes. It is available for \$2.50 per copy from the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

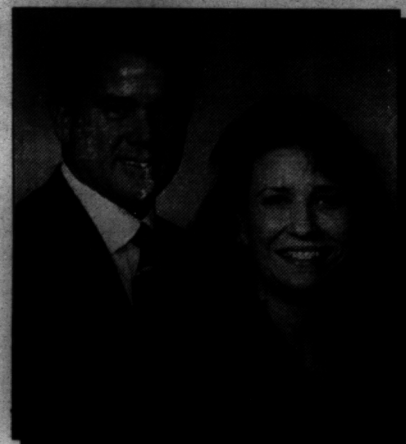
I am convinced my daughter was date-raped. How can I get her to open up with me?

When someone has been violated in such an awful way, they tend to recoil like a scared animal and may even lash out at the hand that is trying to help them. Because she has been abused by someone she trusted, she will likely have difficulty trusting anyone during her healing time. Model trustworthiness in your relationship with her and let her know that you love her no matter how damaged or dirty she feels right now. She is wounded; her recovery will take time and understanding. You'll probably make mistakes, but don't give up. You are in the best position to show her how Christians deal with such tragedies in life.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



The Bushes



The Ledlows

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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ODVLL HBVA HBYH JPNLV

MKP, YCX ENYM QKN

HBVA GBUJB

XVLEUHVQPDDM PLV

MKP.

DPFV LUS: HGVCHM-

VUWBH

Clue: Q = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew 25:34.